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Westminster, November 27.

THIS Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes, seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Molyneux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most Gracious Speech:

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

AT the Close of the last Session I informed you of the Concern with which I observed the Difficulties unhappily subsisting in the Republick of the United Provinces.

Their Situation soon afterwards became more critical and alarming, and the Danger which threatened their Constitution and Independence seemed likely in its Consequences to affect the Security and Interests of My Dominions.

No Endeavours were wanting on My Part to contribute, by My good Offices, to the Restoration of Tranquility, and the Maintenance of the lawful Government; and I also thought it necessary to explain My Intention of counteracting all forcible Interference, on the Part of France, in the Internal Affairs of the Republick. Under these Circumstances, the King of Prussia having taken Measures to enforce his Demand of Satisfaction for the Insult offered to the Princess of Orange, the Party which had usurped the Government of Holland applied to the Most Christian King for Assistance, who notified to Me his Intention of granting their Request.

In Conformity to the Principles which I had before explained, I did not hesitate, on receiving this Notification, to declare, that I could not remain a quiet Spectator of the armed Interference of France; and I gave immediate Orders for augmenting My Forces both by Sea and Land.

In the Course of these Transactions I also thought proper to conclude a Treaty with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, by which I secured the Assistance of a considerable Body of Troops, in case My Service should require it.

In the mean Time the rapid Success of the Prussian Troops, under the Conduct of the Duke of Brunswick, while it was the Means of obtaining the Reparation demanded by the King of Prussia, enabled the Provinces to deliver themselves from the Oppression under which they laboured, and to re-establish their lawful Government.

All Subjects of Contest being thus removed, an amicable Explanation took Place between Me and the Most Christian King; and Declarations have been

exchanged by Our respective Ministers, by which We have agreed mutually to disarm, and to place Our Naval Establishments on the same Footing as in the Beginning of the present Year.

It gives Me the greatest Satisfaction that the important Events, which I have communicated to you, have taken Place, without disturbing My Subjects in the Enjoyment of the Blessings of Peace; and I have great Pleasure in acquainting you, that I continue to receive, from all Foreign Powers, the fullest Assurances of their pacific and friendly Disposition towards this Country. I must, at the same Time, regret that the Tranquility of one Part of Europe is unhappily interrupted by the War which has broken out between Russia and the Porte.

A Convention has been agreed upon between Me and the Most Christian King, explanatory of the Thirteenth Article of the last Treaty of Peace, and calculated to prevent Jealousies and Disputes between Our respective Subjects in the East Indies. I have ordered Copies of the several Treaties to which I have referred, and of the Declaration and Counter-Declaration exchanged at Versailles, to be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the Estimates for the ensuing Year to be laid before you, together with an Account of the extraordinary Expences which the Situation of Affairs rendered necessary.

I have the fullest Reliance on your Zeal and Public Spirit, that you will make due Provision for the several Branches of the Public Service. I am always desirous of confining those Expences within the narrowest Limits, which a prudent Regard for the Public Safety will permit; but I must, at the same Time, recommend to your particular Attention to consider of the proper Means for maintaining My distant Possessions in an adequate Posture of Defence.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

The flourishing State of the Commerce and Revenues of this Country cannot fail to encourage you in the Pursuit of such Measures as may confirm and improve so favorable a Situation.

These Circumstances must also render you peculiarly anxious for the Continuation of Public Tranquility, which it is My constant Object to preserve.

I am, at the same Time, persuaded you will agree with Me in thinking, that nothing can more effectually tend to secure so invaluable a Blessing, than the Zeal and Unanimity which were shewn by all Ranks of My Subjects on the late Occasion, and which manifested their Readiness to exert themselves whenever the Honour of My Crown, and the Interests of My Dominions, may require it.